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Press Item for the DCI

Date: 18 Oct frem: No. 1 Ref: No.

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GOODWIN

BRUSSELS, OCT. 18, REUTER--ANATOLI TCHIBOTAREV, A SOVIET TRADE OFFICIAL WHO DISAPPEARED ON OCT. 3. HAS ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES. THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED TODAY.

REUTER/BB/HGØ742

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SPY 2 BRUSSELS

THE MINISTRY CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT TCHIBOTAREV HAD REVEALED THE EXISTENCE OF A SOVIET SPY NETWORK IN BELGIUM.

TCHIBOTAREV HAS MADE DECLARATIONS CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET CITIZENS IN BELGIUM. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THIS, IT SAID.

BEEN INFORMED OF THIS," IT SAID.

THE BRIEF STATEMENT SAID "AS IN THE PAST, THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT TOLERATE ANY ACTIVITY THAT COULD ENDANGER ITS SECURITY OR THAT OF IT MADE NO MENTION OF DOCUMENT THAT OF THE PAST, THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION BASED ON ITS TERRITORY."

SOVIET CITIZENS WHOSE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN REVEALED BY TCHIBOTAREV. OFFICIALS WERE ON HIS LST OF CAMES.

Comment Goodwin and CSDO have copies.

NEW YORK TIMES

DATE

PAGE

12 Soviet Agents Reported Exposed In Spying on NATO

special to The New York Times RUSSELS, Oct. 16—Belgian Anatoly Ichibotarev, a 38-year-old member of the Soviet trade mission here who disappeared rom his home two weeks ago, had exposed a Soviet spy net-work that had been eavesdropding on telephone conversations headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty organization here and at Supreme Headquar-ters Allied Powers Europe in nearby Mons.

Forty-two Soviet agents, members of the K.G.B. or its military equivalent, the G.R.U., are reported to have been made known to United States intelligence officials.

Belgian Government sources refused to comment on the re-

toris.

The Soviet spies are alleged to have smuggled phone tapping equipment into the country in diplomatic bags. Some reports say that the spy ring spreads beyond Belgium and into West Germany and the satherlands.

According to reports, Mr. Tchibotare hase gone into hiding with United States inteligence officials in Western Europe.

Europe.

There was speculation that he had fled to Britain earlier this month when his car was found near the port of Zeebrugge, from which boats run to Britain. It is believed this property of the p was a ruse intended to mislead Soviet agents.

No one was available at the Soviet Embassy here tonight for comment.

Britain Drops Charges

LONDON, Oct. 16 - Fears that attempts might be made to kill or kidnap Oleg Lyalin, the Soviet K.G.B. defector to Britain, led to the dropping of drunken driving charges against him, the Attorney General's office said today. fice said today.
"It was decided that the

greater national interest would be served if the charges were withdrawn," said T.C. Hether-ington, legal secretary to the Attorney General, Sir Peter

Rawlingson.
The defector should have appeared in court last Thursday to face the driving charges. The case was held over after the Government had named him as the K.G.B. agent whose inform ation confirmed it in the intention to bar 105 Soviet officials.

